

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 BIB-01

DHA-02 CU-04 /076 W

-----091440Z 086713 /50

R 091248Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6961

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS WARSAW 1679

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CSCE, PL, CZ

SUBJ: POLISH PRESS SUPPORT FOR CZECH REGIME

1. SUMMARY: GLOS PRACY OF FEBRUARY 28 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN PRAGUE, ZDISLAW CZAPLINSKI, ENTITLED, "THE THIRD BASKET OF OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR." THE ARTICLE IS THE STRONGEST COMMENTARY WE HAVE YET SEEN IN THE POLISH PRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLAVAK REGIME'S ACTIONS AGAINST CHARTER '77. END SUMMARY.

2. CZAPLINSKI SAYS THE CHARTER 77 "DISSIDENT ACTION" HAS BEEN FIRMLY REJECTED BY THE "SOCIETY OF SOCIALIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA." HE CLAIMS TO HAVE ATTENDED SEVERAL MEETINGS  
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PROTESTING THE ACTION OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP. CZAPLINSKI THEN ASSERTS THAT "WESTERN SUBVERSIVE CENTERS" USED CHARTER 77 AS THE PRETEXT FOR A "SLANDER" CAMPAIGN AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS CAMPAIGN IS DIRECTED NOT ONLY AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT AGAINST ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH ITS PERPETRATORS SAY IT IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. BUT

THEY FORGET THAT THE FINAL ACT CALLS FOR RECIPROCITY. CZAPLINSKI SUPPORTS THE CONTENTION THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CONTACTS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIRD BASKET PROVISIONS, AND ATTEMPTS TO PROVE THIS BY CITING STATISTICS FOR TOURISM AND SPORTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES. IN CONTRAST TO CZECHOSLOVAK PRACTICES, SUCH AS ISSUING VISAS WITHIN 24 TO 48 HOURS AND ISSUING ENTRY VISAS AT BORDER-CROSSING POINTS WITHOUT DELAY, "CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS MUST WAIT...AN AVERAGE OF TWO TO THREE WEEKS" AND "...ARE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO HUMILIATING INTERROGATIONS AND... SOMETIMES HAVE THEIR FINGERPRINTS TAKEN ON ENTERING..." SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES.

3. CZAPLINSKI THEN COMPLAINS ABOUT THE "LIES AND SLANDER DIRECTED AT THIS HARDWORKING SOCIETY, DEVOTED TO THE IDEALS OF SOCIALISM", WHICH ARE BROADCAST DAILY BY AUSTRIAN AND FRG TELEVISION AND WESTERN EUROPEAN RADIO STATIONS. "WHAT," HE ASKS, "DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, OR THE SO-CALLED THIRD BASKET, FOR THAT MATTER?"

4. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, "THE CSCE FINAL ACT CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT, AS CAN THE PROVISIONS OF THE SO-CALLED THIRD BASKET, IF ITS REALIZATION TAKES PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION, RESPECT FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL NORMS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE WORKING PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS TRUTH, BUT WHEN WILL IT COME HOME TO THE SO-CALLED DEFENDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS?"

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5. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT THIS DEFENSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRACKDOWN ON CHARTER 77 IS CARRIED BY GLOS PRACY, WHICH AT BEST IS ONLY IN THE SECOND RANK OF THE POLISH NATIONAL PRESS.  
DAVIES

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## Message Attributes

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